

**State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations**

**BOARD OF ACCOUNTANCY**

**1511 Pontiac Avenue, Bldg. 68-2**

**Cranston, Rhode Island 02920**

**AMENDED MEETING NOTICE**

**October 20, 2015**

**1511 Pontiac Avenue, Cranston, RI 02920**

**Conference Room 68-1**

**1:30 PM**

**OPEN MEETING AGENDA**

**(1) Call to Order**

**(2) Meeting Minutes (Review/Discuss/Take Action)**

**1. Acceptance of the September 10, 2015 Open Session Meeting Minutes**

**2. Acceptance of the September 10, 2015 Executive Session Meeting Minutes**

**(3) National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) matters – (Review/Discuss/Take Action)**

**Information was sent from NASBA and forwarded to all Board**

**members prior to the meeting to include the following:**

**a. NASBA – AICPA released the exposure draft, Maintaining the Relevance of the Uniform CPA Examination on September 1, 2015. – Comments are due November 30, 2015.**

**(4) American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) and Rhode Island Society of Certified Public Accountants (RISCPA) matters – (Review/Discuss/Take Action)**

**a. Comments from Robert Mancini, Executive Director, (RISCPA) – (1) Status of Internship Opportunity with Roger Williams University (RWU). The finalization of a Job Description was sent to RWU to review to ensure that it will meet the academic expectations set by the Accounting Department. The Board is waiting for a response.**

**(5) Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) – (Review/Discuss/Take Action)**

**a. None at this time.**

**(6) Consideration of approval of the following initial application(s) for certification – (Review/Discuss/Take Action)**

**Michael Barricelli Stephanie Sanford**

**(7) Consideration of approval of the following initial without examination application(s) for certification – (Review/Discuss/Take Action)**

**Yunju Hwang Raphael Solawon**

**(8) Consideration of approval of the following reinstatement application(s) for certification – (Review/Discuss/Take Action)**

**Rohan Edwards (3555R)**

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**(9) Old Business: (Review/Discuss/Take Action)**

**a. Development of Board's Newsletter - Member Tracy is continuing to work with Tom Kenny, NASBA Communications, about what content will be placed in the Board's section of the RISCPA newsletter in an effort to get information out. Mr. Tracy's next communication call with NASBA on September 17, 2015.**

**b. Regulations Merger – The Board's Regulations are being merged into one (1) document. "Office of Regulatory Reform (ORR)" approved the document merger. The document was forwarded to the "interested parties," to include NASBA and RISCPA, and the Board members. The Public Hearing was held on Tuesday, April 21, 2015. Attorney Algee will forward a suggested language addition to "Professional Obligation" to "ORR" for review. If approved, the Regulation will be effective twenty (20) days after that date. Comment on the proposed rules pertaining to continuing professional**

education received from the American Institute of CPAs (AICPA). Secretary Fountain contacted Mat Young, AICPA, Vice-President, State Regulatory & Legislative Affairs, to inquire exactly what his concerns are. The Board accepted Mat Young's wording and shall amend its Regulation #5, Section 1.B to add Mr. Young's #11 after the Board's #10. The amendment approval was sent to Attorney Algee.

**c. Renewal Applications – Attestations –**

The Board will begin a "Pilot" Continuing Professional Education (CPE) and Peer Review Audit process and will audit 3% plus those CPAs and Practice Units that were not in compliance in the past renewal period and requested an extension for completion. Prior to implementation, an audit process will be developed for Board approval prior to conducting the audit. Secretary Fountain will work with Mrs. Broadfield to develop the Auditing Reporting forms. This matter was continued.

**d. Public Accountants (PA) – Eliminating the status –**

Treasurer Tashjian discussed the history of the PA status. 1976 was the last time that there was a PA status issued by this Board. Treasurer Tashjian suggested that the remaining 12 PAs be grandfathered and issued a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) status. The Massachusetts statute was obtained which is the "Conversion of Public Accountant License to Certified Public Accountant License." Discussion occurred and a question arose as to how it would affect reciprocity in other states. Treasurer Tashjian will continue working on this matter. Information was sent to Attorney Algee for review. The Board agreed to move forward with the legislation to convert the

**PAs to the CPAs and is requesting that Attorney Algee draft the legislation.**

**e. Continuing Professional Education hours (CPEs) for Board Member Service - Treasurer Tashjian brought up a topic for discussion to give Board members one (1) year, 40 CPEs, for their service on the Board for compensation. The Board discussed this topic and continued it for further discussion. Chair Bernard will talk about this topic at the national meeting.**

**f. Al Ismail – Request for Individual (Public Accountant Member of Australian Institute) PA Certificate only please. The Board reviewed and denied his request and will notify him via reply to his e-mail that he must strictly comply with the Rhode Island General Laws. The Board is researching whether or not there is a NASBA Mutual Recognition Agreement with Australia. Attorney Algee reviewed and recommended responding to the CA stating that he needs to fill out the application and pay the fee. They also need to give us the name, address, phone number, and e-mail address for a person from his licensing jurisdiction that can verify their CA license status. Furthermore, he needs to provide the Board with a copy of the continuing education law that his CA license is subject to, if any. The Board agreed with Attorney Algee and sent, via e-mail, Attorney Algee's recommendation.**

#### **(10) New Business: (Review/Discuss/Take Action)**

**a. Request received for clarification of the “Enrolled Agent (EA)” designation.**

**b. Any other new business.**

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**(11) Next Meeting Date: (Review Discuss/Take Action)**

**a. The next Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 17, 2015, 1:30 p.m.**

**(12) Executive Session**

**The Board will also discuss the following matters in closed session pursuant to RI General Laws §42-46-5(a)(4) for investigative proceedings regarding allegations of civil or criminal misconduct.**

**PENDING MATTERS:**

- One (1) complaint alleges that the Public Accountant (PA) defrauded the complainant.**

**Complaint alleges that the licensee defrauded the complainant. On the tax forms, there are many charges to the business account in which the complainant was never made aware of. In addition to all of the irrelevant charges, the complaint is alleging that the PA is skimming the rents from the complainant's business. The Board will not take any action until such time as the civil matter is resolved and closed and will send the parties a letter indicating such. The**

complainant sent an e-mail to the Board indicating that there was currently no litigation pending against the licensee and requested that the Board investigate. The DBR Attorney was in communication with the complainant who indicated that the Board closed this complaint because of pending litigation in which the complainant said there was no litigation. The Board will send a letter to the complainant that the Board does not have the capacity to conduct a criminal or civil investigation into a matter. The Board can take issue when a decision is made and removed this from the agenda. The complainant again requested help from the Board since there is no pending litigation. The Board referred this matter to the DBR Attorney. The Board will send an e-mail response to the complainant per the DBR Attorney recommendation, explaining that the Board did delegate a Board Member to investigate this matter by interviewing both parties and that it was determined that the complainant did not prove fraud under R.I. Gen. Laws § 5-3.1-12(b)(2). Should the Respondent provide additional proof that the licensee knowingly recorded false information on the tax return, the Board will further investigate.

- One (1) matter of a person advertising on the internet as a CPA. The Board's records indicate no record found. A Board member was assigned to investigate. The Board Member faxed the "internet ad" to the person advertising. The person advertising indicated that that person will fix it. The Board member will continue investigating and will indicate to the person advertising that findthebest.com is reporting the person as a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and to

**notify the person. There is no advertisement from the “street view.”  
Therefore, the matter is continued.**

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- **One (1) matter alleging that a person maintains that he/she is an “accountant.” That person holds himself/herself out as an accountant on Ethics Commission statements the person’s website claims that the person is a member of the National Society of Accountants when the person is not and has never been a member.**

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **No new matters.**

#### **OLD MATTERS:**

- **No old matters.**

#### **(13) Adjournment**



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**All are welcome to any public meeting of the Rhode Island Board of Accountancy held at the Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation (“DBR”). If any reasonable accommodation is needed to ensure equal access, service or participation, please contact the DBR at (401) 462-9551, RI Relay at 711, or email at [dbr.directoroffing@dbr.ri.gov](mailto:dbr.directoroffing@dbr.ri.gov) at least three (3) business days prior to**

the meeting.

**Posted on October 15, 2015 at Department of Business Regulation, State House Library, and electronically on Secretary of State's Office website. Pursuant to the Open Meetings Law, R.I. Gen. Laws Sec. 42-46-6(b). Business not included in this notice may be considered with consent of the majority of the members, and/or may convene into Executive (closed) Session pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws Sec. 42-46-5.**